

The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-28 and add new Claims 29-37 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

1 *Sub* 1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus, for communicating via
2 Internet with an external apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:
3 acquisition means for acquiring, via the Internet, print setting information from
4 the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating print request
5 information;
6 generation means for generating the print request information based on the
7 print setting information acquired by said acquisition means, without requiring connection to the
8 external apparatus via the Internet; and
9 print request means for establishing communication, via the Internet, with the
10 external apparatus for transmission of the print request information,
11 wherein the print request information is generated by said generation means
12 before said print request means establishes communication with the external apparatus.

1 2. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

2 wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in which output is available at a
3 printer that executes printing based on the print request information.

1 3. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,
2 further comprising:
3 storage means for storing the print setting information,
4 wherein, before communicating with the external apparatus using said print
5 request means, the print setting information stored in said storage means is examined to
6 determine whether the print setting information is newer than print setting information that is
7 available at the external apparatus.

1 4. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,
2 further comprising:
3 derivation means for, before communication is established with the external
4 apparatus by said print request means, using the print setting information to derive expenses that
5 are to be incurred to obtain printing results.

1 5. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 4,
2 wherein, before communication is established with the external apparatus using said print request
3 means, said derivation means uses print setting information available at the external apparatus to
4 re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain the printing results.

1 6. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external
3 apparatus, and
4 wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each
5 of at least one output shop.

1 7. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein said generation means is adapted to perform a peruser plug-in function, and uses an
3 application communication function of an OS to generate print request information for a
4 document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

1 8. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein, for communication purposes, a dial-up connection is used to connect the external
3 apparatus to the Internet.

1 9. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
2 network browsing means for communicating with a server across a network
3 and for displaying data received from the server;
4 acquisition means for acquiring print setting information from the server and
5 for storing the print setting information at a client computer; and

6 display data generation means with a CGI function for rewriting the print
7 setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the
8 print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information
9 stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data,
10 wherein the browsing display data is displayed by said network browsing
11 means .

1 10. (Amended) A method for controlling an information processing apparatus
2 that communicates, via Internet, with an external apparatus, said method comprising:
3 an acquisition step of acquiring, via the Internet, print setting information from
4 the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating print request
5 information;
6 a generation step of generating the print request information based on the print
7 setting information acquired at said acquisition step, without requiring connection to the external
8 apparatus via the Internet; and
9 a print request step of establishing communication, via the Internet, with the
10 external apparatus for transmission of the print request information,
11 wherein the print request information is generated at said generation step
12 before communication with the external apparatus is established at said print request step.

1 11. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the print setting

2 information indicates an output style in which output is available at a printer that executes
3 printing based on the print request information.

1 12. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
2 a storage step of storing the print setting information,
3 wherein, before communicating with the external apparatus at said print
4 request step, the print setting information stored at said storage step is examined to determine
5 whether the print setting information is newer than print setting information that is available at
6 the external apparatus.

1 13. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
2 a derivation step of, before communication is established with the external
3 apparatus at said print request step, using the print setting information to derive expenses that are
4 to be incurred to obtain printing results.

1 14. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein, before
2 communication is established with the external apparatus at said print request step, at said
3 derivation step, print setting information available at the external apparatus is used to re-derive
4 the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain the printing results.

1 15. (Amended) A method according to claim 10,

2 wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external
3 apparatus, and
4 wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each
5 of at least one output shop.

1 16. (Amended) A method according to claim 10,
2 wherein said generation step performs a peruser plug-in function, and
3 wherein an application communication function of an OS is used to generate
4 print request information for a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

1 17. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein, for communication
2 purposes, the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus are linked together via
3 the Internet by a dial-up connection.

1 18. (Amended) A method for controlling information processing apparatus
2 that includes network browsing means for communicating with a server across a network and for
3 displaying data received from the server, said method comprising:
4 an acquisition step of acquiring print setting information from the server and of
5 storing the print setting information at a client computer; and
6 a display data generation step of performing a CGI function for rewriting the
7 print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from

8 the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting
9 information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data,
10 wherein the browsing display data is displayed by the network browsing
11 means.

1 19. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium storing a program for
2 implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that communicates,
3 via Internet, with an external apparatus, the method comprising:

4 an acquisition step of acquiring, via the Internet, print setting information from
5 the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating print request
6 information;

7 a generation step of generating the print request information based on the print
8 setting information acquired at said acquisition step, without requiring connection to the external
9 apparatus via the Internet; and

10 a print request step of establishing communication, via the Internet, with the
11 external apparatus for transmission of the print request information,

12 wherein the print request information is generated at said generation step
13 before communication with the external apparatus is established at said print request step.

1 20. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein the print setting information indicates an output style in which output is available at a

3 printer that executes printing based on the print request information.

1 21. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein the method further comprises:

3 a storage step of storing the print setting information,
4 wherein, before communicating with the external apparatus at said print
5 request step, the print setting information stored at said storage step is examined to determine
6 whether the print setting information is newer than print setting information that is available at
7 the external apparatus.

1 22. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein the method further comprises:
3 a derivation step of, before communication is established with the external
4 apparatus at said print request step, using the print setting information to derive expenses that are
5 to be incurred to obtain printing results.

1 23. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 22,
2 wherein, before communication is established with the external apparatus at said print request
3 step, at said derivation step, print setting information available at the external apparatus is used to
4 re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain the printing results.

1 24. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein the print setting information is HTML data generated for the external
3 apparatus, and
4 wherein the external apparatus manages the print setting information for each
5 of at least one output shop.

1 25. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein said generation step performs a peruser plug-in function, and
3 wherein an application communication function of an OS is used to generate
4 the print request information for a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

1 26. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein, for communication purposes, the external apparatus and the information processing
3 apparatus are linked together via the Internet by a dial-up connection.

1 27. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium storing a program for
2 implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that includes network
3 browsing means for communicating with a server across a network and for displaying data
4 received from the server, the method comprising:
5 an acquisition step of acquiring print setting information from the server and of
6 storing the print setting information at a client computer; and

7 a display data generation step of performing a CGI function for rewriting the
8 print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from
9 the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting
10 information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data,
11 wherein the browsing display data is displayed by the network browsing
12 means.

1 28. (Amended) A computer program product embodying a computer program
2 for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that
3 communicates, via Internet, with an external apparatus, the method comprising:

4 an acquisition step of acquiring, via the Internet, print setting information from
5 the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating print request
6 information;

7 a generation step of generating the print request information based on the print
8 setting information acquired at said acquisition step, without requiring connection to the external
9 apparatus via the Internet; and

10 a print request step of establishing communication, via the Internet, with the
11 external apparatus for transmission of the print request information,

12 wherein the print request information is generated at said generation step
13 before communication with the external apparatus is established at said print request step.

1 *Sub B1* 29. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein
2 the print setting information includes information indicating a paper size supported at a print
3 shop.

1 30. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 9,
2 wherein said acquisition means acquires a plurality of pieces of print setting
3 information corresponding to respective print shops designated by a user, and
4 wherein said display data generation means generates the browsing display
5 data, which includes a shop list for selection of the print shops corresponding to the plurality of
6 pieces of print setting information acquired by said acquisition means.

1 31. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 9, further
2 comprising preview generating means for generating a print preview image, wherein said display
3 data generation means rewrites the template data such that the generated print preview image is
4 displayed within the template data.

1 32. (New) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the print setting
2 information includes information indicating a paper size supported at a print shop.

1 33. (New) A method according to Claim 18,
2 wherein said acquisition step acquires a plurality of pieces of print setting

3 information corresponding to respective print shops designated by a user, and

4 wherein said display data generation step generates the browsing display data,
5 which includes a shop list for selection of the print shops corresponding to the plurality of pieces
6 of print setting information acquired at said acquisition step.

1 34. (New) A method according to Claim 18, further comprising a preview
2 generating step of generating a print preview image, wherein, at said display data generation step,
3 the template data is rewritten such that the generated print preview image is displayed within the
4 template data.

1 35. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 27,
2 wherein the print setting information includes information indicating a paper size supported at a
3 print shop.

1 36. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 27,
2 wherein said acquisition step acquires a plurality of pieces of print setting
3 information corresponding to respective print shops designated by a user, and
4 wherein said display data generation step generates the browsing display data,
5 which includes a shop list for selection of the print shops corresponding to the plurality of pieces
6 of print setting information acquired at said acquisition step.